

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). An air mattress comprising:

a first inflatable compartment having a length and width, when inflated, sufficient to support a human body, said compartment also having a height when inflated, said compartment having a top, a bottom, and substantially straight, vertically extending sides, said first compartment being composed of at least two layers of vinyl, one layer of vinyl forming the top of the compartment and the second forming the bottom;
~~a plurality of ribs extending; between the top and the bottom of the first compartment; and~~

a second inflatable compartment disposed on the top of the first inflatable compartment and secured thereto at least along a portion of the first inflatable compartment at a point spaced inwardly from the sides of said first inflatable compartment, said second compartment extending generally the length and width of the top of the first compartment, said second compartment being of a size, when inflated, sufficient to support a human body, and having an inflated height substantially less than the height of the first compartment;

 said second compartment being composed of at least two layers of vinyl distinct from the two layers of vinyl forming the first compartment; said second compartment being inflatable to give the top of the air mattress a soft, pillow-like appearance and feel,

wherein said first compartment and said second compartment are secured together adjacent a an open fluid communication channel, the fluid communication channel providing fluid communication between the first and second inflatable compartments to enable fluid in one of the first and second inflatable compartments to flow into the other of the first and second inflatable compartments, such that fluid pressure in the first and second compartments are equalized.

2. (cancelled)

3 (previously amended). The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the bottom layer of the second compartment is secured to the top of the upper layer of the first compartment.

4 (original). The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the second compartment has a soft, non-vinyl fabric secured to the top thereof.

5 (cancelled).

6 (cancelled).

7 (currently amended). The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the ribs extend transversely across the second compartment, said second compartment having channels for flow of air around and through the ribs.

8 (original). The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first and second compartments are substantially free to move with respect to each other except at the periphery thereof.

9 (currently amended). The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first compartment has ribs extending between the layers of vinyl making up the first compartment, and wherein the second compartment has ribs extending between the layers of vinyl making up the second compartment.

10 (currently amended). The air mattress as set forth in claim 9 wherein the ribs of the first compartment are substantially taller than the ribs of the second compartment.

11 (original). The air mattress as set forth in claim 10 wherein the ribs of the first compartment are at least twenty-five per cent taller than the ribs of the second compartment.

12 (original). The air mattress as set forth in claim 9 wherein the ribs of the first and second compartments are composed of vinyl.

13 (original). The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first compartment and the second compartment are sealed together at a point recessed from the periphery of the first compartment, thereby permitting limited relative movement of

the second compartment with respect to the first compartment along the edge of the mattress.

14 (original). The air mattress as set forth in claim 13 wherein the seal is recessed approximately one inch.

15 (original). The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the vinyl layers of the second compartment are connected together by a first vinyl strip extending between the layers along the periphery of the second compartment, and the vinyl layers of the first compartment are connected together by a second vinyl strip extending between the layers along the periphery of the first compartment.

16 (original). The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the only access to the interior of the first and second compartments for inflation of both compartments is through a single valve.

17 (original). The air mattress as set forth in claim 16 wherein the single valve is disposed in a wall of the first compartment.

18 (original). The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 further including a pump for inflating and/or deflating the first and second compartments.

19 (original). The air mattress as set forth in claim 18 wherein the pump is permanently attached to a valve disposed in a wall of the first or second compartment.

20 (original). The air mattress as set forth in claim 18 wherein the pump is removably attachable to a valve disposed in a wall of the first or second compartment.

21 (original). The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the second compartment has a single peripheral seam.

22 (original). The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the second compartment has at least two seams.

23 (original). The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the two layers of the second compartment are secured together at a plurality of discontinuous positions.

24-26 (cancelled).

27(currently amended). An air mattress comprising:
a first inflatable compartment having a top, a bottom, and substantially straight, vertically extending sides and having a height when inflated, said first compartment being composed of at least two layers of material, one layer of material forming the top of the first compartment and the second layer of material forming the bottom of the first compartment;

a second inflatable compartment having a top and a bottom, the second compartment being composed of at least two layers of material, one layer of material forming the top of the second compartment, the second layer of material forming the bottom of the second compartment, the second compartment being positioned above the first compartment, said second compartment having an inflated height substantially less than the height of the first compartment;

a perimeter seal connecting the top of the first compartment to the bottom of the second compartment, the perimeter seal being spaced inwardly from the sides of the first compartment;

a an open fluid communication channel providing fluid communication between the first compartment and the second compartment to enable fluid in one of the first and second inflatable compartments to flow into the other of the first and second compartments to equalize pressure in the first and second compartments; and

a plurality of ribs extending between the top and bottom of one of the first and second compartments.

28 (cancelled).

29 (cancelled).

30 (previously added). An air mattress comprising:

a first inflatable compartment having substantially straight, vertically extending sides with a length, an inflated height and a width and defining a periphery;

a second inflatable compartment extending generally the length and width of the periphery, the second inflatable compartment having a top and a bottom and an inflated height, the inflated height of the second compartment being substantially less than the height of the first compartment;

a perimeter seal connecting said first inflatable compartment to said second inflatable compartment, wherein said perimeter seal is spaced inwardly from the periphery,

a plurality of ribs extending between the top and bottom of the second compartment;

a an open fluid communication channel providing fluid communication between the first and second inflatable compartments to enable fluid in one of the first and second inflatable compartments to flow into the other of the first and second inflatable compartments to equalize pressure in the first and second compartments.